

funneling into a regional center, they do need to look at how those services can go out to people. And as we walk through and we look at what I'm going to think is consolidation of a lot of services in a lot of central points whether it perhaps in the future be things like counties, schools and others, we still have to look at those people in the outlying areas and the delivery system that we have in place. In looking at the judicial system, access to the courts, I really believe that Senator Wickersham's amendment will better meet the needs entirely of the state, of the people of Nebraska and we need to support his amendment and at this point it is the state's responsibility to provide those services to people in the smaller towns.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Before I proceed to the next speaker I would like to introduce some guests to the Legislature today. First of all we have some guests of Senator Wehrbein. We have 36 twelfth graders from Elmwood-Murdock and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Also some guests of Senator Horgan, under the south balcony we have George Reed from Omaha, Jim Pospisil from Plattsmouth and Jim Picconi from Elkhorn. Would you gentlemen please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, again, I want to make the argument that this is not an access question, and if I could direct your attention to one exhibit that I think proves that absolutely, if you don't want to listen to anything else in this argument, I would ask you to look at the exhibit that says at the top, "Districts 11 and 12 for LB 306, Size and Population Compared." It is a comparison of Districts 11 and 12 in the new county court system and if you look at your map you'll see that 12 is the panhandle district, that's where we're talking about removing a judge. Eleven is the southwestern Nebraska district where no judge is being removed. Now when you look at these two districts, look at them together, you'll see that District 11 which is not the panhandle district, but the other district, is larger, has more counties, it has more geographic area, it has significantly larger population and it's caseload as compared to District 12 is about 37,000 cases compared to 25,000 cases. It has a heavier caseload. And under the current system before LB 306, the number of county judges in District 11 which is the larger district is five, the one with the heavier caseload by far has